

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----108261 211708Z /45

O 211505Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6677
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMGIDATE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 2181

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS - 1
TAGS: PBCR, SO, ET, UNSC, OAU
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN/SOMLIA DISPUTE: STATUS REPORT ON NIGERIAN
GOOD OFFICES

REF: STATE 044130
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SUMMARY: GARBA IS IMPRESSED BY SECURITY COUNCIL (SC) RESOLUTION
AND MIGHT AGREE TO ITS PRESENTATION TO SC, BUT HE REMAINS WORRIED
ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET SABOTAGE. HE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRE-
CIATE REPORT FROM US IN TRIOPOLI ON SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION
TONIGHT WITH DOBRYNIN. GARBA IS LEAVING FOR TRIOPOLI MIDDAY
TODAY FEBRUARY 21. SOMALI MINES MINISTER KASSIM ARRIVED LAGOS

LATE LAST NIGHT UNKNOWN TO GARBA. THEY MAY SEE EACH OTHER TODAY BEFORE GARBA LEAVES. ETHIOPIANS ARE WILLING TO COME IF THEY CAN SEE GARBA AND OBASANJO BOTH, WHICH MAY MEAN THEIR VISIT WILL CONTINUE TO BE DELAYED UNTIL GARBA RETURNS A WEEK HENCE FROM TRIOPOLI.
END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING IS STATUS REPORT ON NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT AS OF 11 A.M. LAGOS TIME TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, BASED ON SEPARATE CONVERSAIONS I HAVE HAD DURING THE PAST HOUR WITH COMMISSIONER GARBA, WITH ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR BADEMA AND WITH THE SOMALI CHARGE' GARBA IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE LAGOS FOR TRIPOLI MOMENTARILY THIS MORNING.

2. GARBA SAID HE HAD CAREFULLY STUDIED THE TEXT TOF THE PROPOSED SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION GIVEN TO HIM TWO DAYS AGO BY AMBASSADOR CARTER IN MONROVIA. HE REFERRED TO IT AS 'NOT BAD,' 'MODERATELY WORDED,' AND 'POSSIBLY USEFUL.' THEN HE SAID 'I DON'T MIND.' I DOUBELE-CHECKED HIM ON WHETHER HE HAD INDEED STUDIED THE EXACT WORDING, HE INSISTED HE HAD DONE SO, SAYING HE HAD A COPY OF IT 'SOMEWHERE HERE AMONG MY PAPERS.'

3. GARBA THEN REITERATED, BUT LESS FORCEFULLY THAN BEFORE, HIS PREFERENCE FOR A DELAY IN TAKING THE MATTER TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HE SAID NEITHER THE ETHIOPIANS NOR THE SOMALIS HAD SHOWED UP IN LAGOS, AND NOW HE WANTED TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH HIS
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OAU COLLEAGUES IN TRIOPOLI. HE THOUGHT THE OAU MIGHT DECIDE TO SEND A DELEGATION FROM TRIOPOLI TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO THE COUNCIL. HE RECALLED THE OAU HAD SENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM LIBREVILLE AT THE TIME WHEN THE ZIMBABWA SCENARIO WAS PROPOSED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

4. I ASKED GARBA THE STATUS OF MENGISTU'S DELEGATION TO LAGOS. HE SAID, 'THEY REFUSED TO COME.' I TOLD HIM I HAD SEEN THE ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR EARLIER THIS MORNING, WHO TOLD ME HE HAD JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT THE DELEGATION WOULD COME PROVIDED THEY COULD SEE BOTH GARBA AND OBASANJO. GARBA SAID 'THEY WILL HAVE TO WAIT THEN UNTIL I GET BACK.'

5. GARBA KNEW NOTHING OF THE PLANS FOR A SOMLIA DELEGATION. I TOLD HIM THE SOMALI CHARGE' HAD LEARNED LAST NIGHT OF MINISTER

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 2181

EXDIS

KASSIM'S ARRIVAL IN LAGOS ONLY JUST IN TIME TO MEET HIM AT
THE AIRPORT AT MIDNIGHT. KASSIM WAS SLEEPING NOW BUT WOULD
PRESUMABLY VERY MUCH WISH TO SEE GARBA BEFORE GARBA LEFT FOR
TRIOPOLI. GARBA WAS CLEARLY STARTLED BY THIS NEWS. HE SAID HE
KNEW KASSIM. IT WAS MY CLEAR IMPRESSION HE WOULD TRY TO SEE HIM
THIS MORNING BEFORE LEAVING. ON MY WAY DOWN THE STAIRS FROM SEEING
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GARBA, I MET THE SOMALI CHARGE' COMING UP. (SOMALI AMBASSADOR
GARAD IS ALREADY IN TRIOPOLI.)

6. GARBA WAS MOST INTERESTED IN THE INFORMATION I WAS ABLE

TO GIVE HIM (PARAGRAPH 1 OF REFTTEL) CONCERNING US/USSR CONSULTATIONS HE SAID HIS MAJOR CONCERN REGARDING THE PROPOSED SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION WAS THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD ATTACK IT. HE IMPLIED THAT IF THIS WERE TO BE THE CASE, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO AVOID SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION. HE SEEMED PLEASED THAT THE USSR HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY REJECTED THE CONCEPT OF NXV NNEUTRAL SUPERVISION OF WITHDRAWALS. HE WAS AWARE OF TTHIOPIAN AVERSION TO AND SOMALI ISISTANCE ON A GUARANTEE AGAINST REPRISALS. HE IS ALSO WELL FAMILIAR WITH THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOMALI AND ETHIOPIAN INTERPRETATIONS OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

7. GIVEN GARBA'S DEEP CONCERN REGARDING SOVIET ATTITUDE, I TOLD HIM THAT THE SECRETARY WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET DOBRYNIN THIS EVENING. HE ASKED THAT SECRETARY BE INFORMED OF HIS VIEW THAT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION MIGHT BE USEFUL IN SUPPORT OF OAU ACTION. I TOLD HIM THAT EMBASSY TRIOPOLI WOULD LET HIM KNOW THE RESULT OF THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH DOBRYNIN. GARBA SAID HE WOULD IN TURN KEEP OUR EMBASSY IN TRIOPOLI INFORMED OF THE VIEW OF HIS OAU COLLEAGUES IF OUR EMBASSY WOULD MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH HIM.

8. COMMENT: GARBA'S ATTITUDE CONCERNING SECURITY COUNCIL ROLE IS CLEARLY MORE POSITIVE THAN AT ANY TIME TO DATE. ONE OF HIS PRIME CONCERNS ALL ALONG HAS BEEN THE POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET TORPEDOING OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. HE MAY HAVE STILL IN MIND THE INSENSITIVE AND DOGMATIC RESPONSE HE RECEIVED FROM GROMYKO WHEN HE DISCUSSED THE HORN IN MOSCOW LAST DECEMBER (LAGOS 14040). I AM CERTAIN GARBA WOULD BE MOST APAPPRECIATIVE OF ANY REPORT WE CAN GIVE HIM IN

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TRIOPOLI CONCERNING THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH DOBRYNIN PROVIDED DOBRYNIN DEMONSTRATES A RESONABLY FLEXIBLE POSTURE CONCERNING SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION, I BELIEVE GARBA MAY NOW BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO IT. WHETHER NIGERIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO SPONSOR OR CO-SPONSOR A RESOLUTION, HOWEVER, IS QUITE ANOTHER MATTER. THIS WOULD HINGE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ON GARBA'S INTERPRETATION OF THE VIEWS OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN TRIOPOLI. EASUM

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